

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 HA-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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R 301300Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7253
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELIZE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0105

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PEPR PDEV BH UK US MP GT
SUBJECT: MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT APPEALS FOR USG SUPPORT TO INDEPENDENCE
FOR BELIZE

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY PERM SEC PARFAIT
JANUARY 30 AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO RECEIVE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT
(GOM) DEMARCH ON BEHALF INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE. PARFAIT
NOTED THAT US ENJOYS "GREAT INFLUENCE" WITH GUATEMALA AND IT IS
GOM'S HOPE THAT US INFLUENCE WILL BE EXERTED ON BEHALF OF
INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE QITHOUT TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO
GUATEMALA. PARFAIT SAID GOM HAD BEEN PLEASED TO NOTE THAT
USG HAD ABSTAINED ON UNGA RESOLUTION OF NOV. 22, 1977 FAVORING
BELIZE INDEPENDENCE RATHER THAN VOTING AGAINST. PRINCIPAL
PARTIES TO DISPUTE ARE UK, GUATEMALA AND BELIZE, PARFAIT SAID,
BUT US COULD PLAY "IMPORTANT ROLE" IN ACHIEVING A JUST
RESOLUTION. PARFAIT THEN HANDED OVER AIDE MEMOIRE, TEXT OF
WHICH IS GIVEN IN PARA 3 BELOW.

2. COMMENT: IT WAS EVIDENT FROM OTHER REMARKS BY PARFAIT THAT
WITH THIS DEMARCHE GOM WAS CARRYING OUT A RECOMMENDATION OF THE
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COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON BELIZE ESTABLISHED
BY THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF STATE MEETING OF JUNE 1977.
SIMILAR APPROACHES ARE NOT DOUBT BEING MADE IN OTHER
COMMONWEALTH CAPITALS. END COMMENT.

3. TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT.

THE QUESTION OF BELIZE.

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 22ND NOVEMBER 1977 EXPRESSED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE AND RECORDED A FURTHER SWING OF LATIN AMERICAN OPINION IN HER FAVOUR. THE BELIZE RESOLUTION WHICH REAFFIRMS THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE, AND THE INVIOABILITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE, WAS CARRIED BY 126 VOTES TO FOUR WITH 13 ABSTENTIONS. ARGENTINA, MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND PERU JOINED PANAMA IN SUPPORTING BELIZE. ONLY EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS NOW SUPPORT GUATEMALA ON THE ISSUE AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

A CONCENSUS WAS ALSO REACHED AMONG COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AT THE LONDON MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF STATES IN JUNE 1977 NAMELY THAT THERE COULD BE NO SETTLEMENT OF THE BELIZE QUESTION WITHOUT THE FULL CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

ACCORDINGLY A COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON BELIZE WAS CONSTITUTED IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN FINDING EARLY AND EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE ON THE BASIS OF VIEWS EXPRESSED AT MEETINGS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER AND RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS FEELS THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MIGHT PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE QUESTION BY OFFERING ITS ACTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR AN EARLY IMPLEMENTATION FO THE RELEVANT U.N. RESOLUTION ON BELIZE, AND BY DIPLOMATICALLY TELLING THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA THAT IT SHOULD NOT EXPECT ANY SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR ITS CLAIM ON BELIZE.

END TEXT.
KEELEY

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